

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.     **(Currently Amended)**     A computer-implemented method comprising:  
          requesting database connection information from ~~[[an]]~~ a web application server to  
~~another node~~ a database;  
          accessing a key phrase from a file system of the web application server ~~to decrypt~~  
~~the requested connection information~~, responsive to the request for the connection  
information;  
          combining a system identifier of the web application server with the key phrase  
to obtain an effective encryption key; and  
          ~~obtaining the requested connection information~~ a name/value string from a secure  
storage file in a file system a global directory via a find operation;  
          parsing the name/value string into a name string and a value string; and  
          decrypting the value string with the effective encryption key to obtain the  
database connection information.

2-4.   **(Cancelled)**

5.     **(Original)**     The method of claim 1, wherein accessing the key phrase comprises:  
          prompting for input to the application server that provides the key phrase.

6.     **(Cancelled)**

7.     **(Currently Amended)**     The method of claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, wherein database  
connection information includes at least one of:  
          a password for the database; and

an address for the database.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the address for the database is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[11]] 1, wherein decrypting the ~~obtained connection information~~ **the value string** comprises:

decrypting the ~~obtained connection information~~ **the value string** with a triple Data Encryption Standard (DES) algorithm.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained connection information includes a Java string.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein requesting connection information in an application server comprises:

automatically requesting a connection to a database.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein automatically requesting a connection to a database comprises automatically requesting a connection to a database on initialization of the application server.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the application server is a Web application server.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the Web application server ~~complies~~ **is compatible** with the J2EE standard.

18. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

[[an]] **a web** application server to access a key phrase **from a filesystem of the web application server** responsive to a request to connect with a ~~node~~ **database, wherein the web application server includes a system identifier to identify the application server and the key phrase is to be combined with the system identifier;**

a central directory to store a **name**/value string and to provide the **name**/value string to the **web** application server responsive to receiving the **combination of the system identifier and the** key phrase from the **web** application server;

**a parser to parse the name/value string;** and

the ~~node~~ **database** to provide requested data to the **web** application server.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the ~~node~~ **database** is a relational database system.

21-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[22]] **18**, wherein the Web application server is implemented according to the Java 2 Enterprise Edition Standard.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the stored value string includes at least one of:

a password to connect with the remote node; and  
an address of the remote node.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the value string is to be stored in a data store of the central directory.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the data store of the central directory is encrypted.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the data store is encrypted with a triple DES algorithm.

30. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the data store of the central directory may be transitioned from storing unencrypted data to storing encrypted data.

31. (Currently Amended) An application server comprising:  
a network interface to connect to ~~another node~~ a database; and  
a processor and logic executable thereon to  
receive a request for database connection information to ~~another node~~ the database,  
access a key phrase from a central directory of a distributed system to  
decrypt the requested database connection information, responsive to the request for  
database connection information, and

obtain ~~the requested connection information~~ **a name/value string** from a secure storage file in a ~~file system~~ **global directory via a find operation**.

32-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) The application sever of claim ~~[[33]]~~ **31**, wherein the database connection information includes at least one of:

a password for the database; and  
an address for the database.

35. (Original) The application server of claim 34, wherein the application server is a Web application server; and wherein the address for the database is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

36. (Original) A system comprising:  
means for requesting **database** connection information from ~~[[an]]~~ **a web** application server to ~~another node~~ **a database**;

means for accessing a key phrase **from a file system of the web application server** to ~~decrypt the requested connection information~~, responsive to the request for the connection information;

**means for combining a system identifier of the web application server with the key phrase to obtain an effective encryption key; and**

means for obtaining ~~the requested connection information~~ **a name/value string** from a secure storage file in a ~~file system~~ **a global directory via a find operation**;

**means for parsing the name/value string into a name string and a value string;**  
**and**

**means for decrypting the value string with the effective encryption key to obtain the database connection information.**

37-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:  
an electronically accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by an apparatus, cause the apparatus to  
request **database** connection information from ~~[[an]]~~ **a web** application server to ~~another node~~ **a database**;  
access a key phrase **from a file system of the web application server** ~~to decrypt the requested connection information~~, responsive to the request for the connection information;  
**combine a system identifier of the web application server with the key phrase to obtain an effective encryption key; and**  
obtain ~~the requested connection information~~ **a name/value string** from a secure storage file in ~~a file system~~ **a global directory via a find operation**;  
**parse the name/value string into a name string and a value string; and**  
**decrypt the value string with the effective encryption key to obtain the database connection information.**

40-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 39 wherein the instructions that, when executed by an apparatus, cause the apparatus to access the key phrase include instructions that cause the apparatus to  
prompt a user of the application server to provide the key phrase.

43. (Original)The article of manufacture of claim 39, the requested connection information includes at least on of:

a password for the database; and  
an address for the database.